Indo-US Agreement on Nuclear Power Generation

178. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether substantial capacity augmentation in nuclear energy generation in the country is envisaged in the Indo-US joint collaboration agreement signed in July, 2005;

(b) if so, the feature of the steps taken and/or initiated by each party towards implementation of the agreement, so far;

(c) the details of the roadmap indicating potential volume of generation capacity planned to be added, if any, at respective stages of implementation of the agreement;

(d) whether separation of our civilian nuclear activities from the defence related ones has been one of the demands from the side of the United State; and

(e) if so, the rationale thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The Civil Nuclear Agreement between India and US was reached on 18 July 2005 during the visit of PM to US in the context of India's quest for energy security as an essential component of our vision for our development. It was part of a larger Joint Statement, which recognized the significance of civilian nuclear energy for meeting growing global energy demands in a cleaner and more eiificient manner. The agreement does not quantify the potential of capacity augmentation possible after such cooperation. The implementation of the July 18 agreement would be guided fully and entirely by the commitments reflected in the Joint Statement only. A Working Group to this end, headed by Foreign Secretary on the Indian side and Under Secretary for Political Affairs of the State Department on the US side, has been set up and it held the first meeting in Delhi on October 21, 2005. It has been made very clear to the US, including at the meeting of the Working Group that our commitments and obligations would only be those that have been spelt out in the 18 July Joint Statement. Each side expressed its preferences but no roadmap in this regard has been agreed to as yet. The two sides are working closely to implement the agreement at the earliest.

(d) and (e) As part of its commitments under the 18 July Agreement, the Prime Minister conveyed that India would be ready to assume the same responsibilities and practices and acquire the same benefits and advantages as other leading countries with advanced nuclear technology, such as the United States. These responsibilities and practices consisted, among others, of identifying and separating civilian and military nuclear facilities and programmes in a phased manner and filing a declaration regarding its civilian facilities with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and taking a decision to place voluntarily its civilian nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards.

Government's views on Iran's nuclear programme

179. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) The reaction of the government to the pressure being built by USA and European Union on Iran to curtail its nuclear programme;

(b) Whether government have discussed this issue with USA and other countries as its non-resolution may lead to another war;

(c) If so, the details of the discussion and if not, the reasons therefore especially as the issue reflects on India's security concerns; and

(d) The Steps Government proposes to take to express its solidarity with countries which are pursuing nuclear programmes to meet their energy needs and face opposition from nuclear countries like India did a few years ago?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Government has always maintained that issues related to the Iranian nuclear programme should be resolved in a transparent manner within the framework of the IAEA and through negotiations. The Government has been engaged in consultations with other countries with a view to find a diplomatic solution to the issue.

(d) Government has always maintained that countries should pursue their right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy in accordance with their international obligations and commitments. This position remains unchanged.